

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP, PFOR, GR, CY

SUBJECT: CODEL EAGLETON: SENATOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY. ON AUGUST 20, AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS THREE-DAY VISIT TO ATHENS, SENATOR EAGLETON HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE. IN AN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT THE SENATOR CRITICIZED U.S. POLICY TOWARD GREECE DURING THE 1967-74 PERIOD OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSED HIS REGRET THAT THERE WAS STILL NO SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS HE DEALT WITH THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO AND CYPRUS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SENATOR SAID THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, UNDER BOTH DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATIONS, HAD SUPPORTED THE JUNTA IN 1967-74 AND THIS U.S. POSITION HAD PERHAPS HELPED TO KEEP THE JUNTA IN POWER. HE CONSIDERS THAT THIS U.S. STAND HAD BEEN A SERIOUS MISTAKE IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROBLEM IN U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS EVEN BEFORE THE JULY 1974 CYPRUS CRISIS.

3. THE SENATOR EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS. IN HIS VIEW TURKEY IS NO MORE WILLING TO CONSIDER A RESPONSIBLE SETTLEMENT TODAY THAN IT WAS A YEAR AGO AND IN VIEW OF THE PROCESS OF TURKIFICATION IN THE NORTH CONDITIONS HAVE EVEN WORSENERED. THE TURKISH

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MILITARY IS IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION AND CALLING THE SHOTS.

DENKTASH IS NOT MASTER IN HIS OWN HOUSE, NOR IS PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL THE MASTER.

4. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS THE SENATOR THEN COMMENTED ON THE FOLLOWING MAIN ISSUES:

5. TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO. THE SENATOR GAVE TWO REASONS FOR THE ARMS EMBARGO: (1) IT WAS REQUIRED BY LAW AND (2) SOME THOUGHT IT MIGHT INDUCE THE TURKS TO BE MORE REASONABLE. HOWEVER, UNTIL NOW HE SAID IT HAS NOT HAD THIS EFFECT. THE SENATOR SAID THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO, SIX MONTHS AFTER IT BEGAN, WAS NOW BEGINNING TO HAVE AN EFFECT AS THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES WERE STARTING TO RUN OUT OF SPARE PARTS. HE DOES NOT THINK THE EMBARGO HAD MADE THE TURKS MORE UNREASONABLE BUT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNREASONABLE FROM THE DAY THEY INVADED CYPRUS. THE SENATOR SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THE VOTE, WHICH HE EXPECTS WILL BE TAKEN BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 9 AND 15, WILL COME OUT IN THE HOUSE. THE PRESSURE FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO COMES FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY.

6. CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. THE SENATOR STRESSED THAT THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS, THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, MUST BE THE ONES TO DETERMINE THE SETTLEMENT. HE SAID HE HAD NO PLAN HIMSELF. HE PAID TRIBUTE TO UNSYG WALDHEIM FOR HIS ROLE IN BRINGING THE TWO PARTIES TOGETHER FOR TALKS. THE SENATOR SAID HE WOULD OPPOSE U.S. MILITARY AID TO CYPRUS AS A WAY OF RESTORING A MILITARY BALANCE ON THE ISLAND AND HE WOULD ALSO BE STRONGLY AGAINST ANY U.S. MILITARY ACTION OR INTERVENTION ON THE ISLAND (TO MOVE THE TURKS OUT). MOREOVER HE WOULD NOT FAVOR A TILT TO GREECE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY PLATFORM OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. U.S. POLICY SHOULD BE BALANCED AND SHOULD NOT TILT TO GREECE OR TO TURKEY, HE ARGUED.

7. BRITISH ROLE. THE SENATOR COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON THE BRITISH ROLE IN CYPRUS. BRITISH POLICY HAD NOT MADE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO A SETTLEMENT, HE SAID. IN PARTICULAR HE CRITICIZED THE BRITISH ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOT REGUGEES ON THE SBA EARLIER THIS YEAR, WHICH HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE TURKIFICATION OF THE NORTH.

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8. THE GREEK PRESS, RADIO AND TV GAVE FULL AND STRAIGHTFORWARD COVERAGE TO THE SENATOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND TO EARLIER REMARKS HE HAD MADE AT A SOCIAL GATHERING CRITICIZING U.S. SUPPORT OF THE JUNTA. WE ARE POUCHING A COPY OF THE TRANSCRIPT TO EUR/SE.
KUBISCH

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